



THE SEVEN-STAR DOCTOR: SYNCHRONIZING THE PMDC, WHO, AND PUMHSW'S ASPIRATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL DISTINCTION IN HEALTH.

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The Seven-Star Doctor is a concept put forth by the World Health Organization (WHO) which looks to reframe the role of medical practitioners in the 21st century¹. It elaborates on the seven critical functions of a doctor which include: care provider, decision maker, a communicator, a leader of the community, a manager, an advocate for health, and a scholar. It described the prerequisites of a blended and fusion doctor who caters to the sophisticated healthcare demands of the society. In Pakistan, the council for the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) looks after the educational and professional practices to ensure quality and standard, while institutions like the Peoples University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women (PUMHSW) seek to ensure that appropriate healthcare professionals are trained². This editorial is meant to describe the integration of the Seven-Star Doctor paradigm with the PMDC and WHO goals is as well PUMHSW's vision on medical education and healthcare in Pakistan.

THE SEVEN-STAR DOCTOR: A WORLD STANDARD

The WHO's Seven-Star Doctor model arose to respond to the changing needs on healthcare systems globally¹. In addition to clinical competence, it sees doctors as generalist professionals who balance technical skill with social accountability. As carers, they practice empathetic, patient-focused care. As decision-takers, they use evidence-based thinking to clinical and ethical dilemmas. Efficient communication ensures patients are able to

understand their conditions and treatment regimens, building trust. Community leadership and health advocacy entail tackling social determinants of health and facilitating access to care equitably. Doctors optimize and coordinate teams as managers and, as scholars, undertake lifelong learning and advance medical knowledge. This competency-based system is highly applicable in Pakistan, where health-care inequities, resource limitations, and an increasing disease burden necessitate adaptive physicians³. The PMDC, being the regulatory body for medical education and practice, has a central role in infusing these competencies into training curricula. The same goes for PUMHSW's vision to enable women in healthcare, where leadership, advocacy, and scholarly excellence are also pointed out⁶.

PMDC'S ROLE IN SHAPING SEVEN-STAR DOCTORS

The PMDC, which was reconstituted in 2023 following the dissolution of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC), has the mandate to ensure uniform standards of medical education and practice throughout Pakistan². Its online portal simplifies registrations, licensing, and verifications, so doctors can concentrate on delivering healthcare. Yet, past problems, including corruption charges and capricious licensing, underscore the imperative for transparency and consistency in realizing the Seven-Star Doctor model⁴. In order to align with WHO's vision, PMDC needs to incorporate the seven roles into its accreditation standards for medical

colleges. For instance, syllabuses must highlight communication skills over & done with patient communication recreation & public governance through community healthiness schemes⁵. With enforcing the Medical & Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) along with establishing an intense selection based on merit process, PMDC makes sure that those who are eligible enter the profession, thus building the foundation for the growth of comprehensive professionals. In addition, by demanding professional learning and academic action, PMDC regulations for advanced degrees & house job certification may encourage intelligent & executive abilities. However, discrepancies in licensure, such as those among Khawaja Muhammad Safdar Medical College graduates in 2024, are a reflection of deficiencies in the evaluation processes⁴. In order to retain equity and uphold the prestige of the Seven-Star Doctor concept, PMDC must address these disparities. In order to prepare graduates, PMDC may homogenize educational courses that promote each of the seven obligations by working alongside medical schools & the Higher Educational Commission (HEC).

PUMHSW'S VISION: EMPOWERING WOMEN AS SEVEN-STAR DOCTORS

The Vision of PUMHSW: Educating Women to Develop into Seven-Star Medical professionals The progress of female medical studies within Pakistan is greatly supported by the Peoples University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women (PUMHSW) in Nawabshah, Sindh⁶. The organization's objective to produce competent, empathetic, & innovative medical professionals is perfectly in line to the Seven-Star Doctor model. PUMHSW's emphasis on empowering women is consistent with the health advocate and community leader roles, since female physicians are in a

position to discuss gender-relevant health concerns, including maternal and reproductive health, with underserved populations⁷. PUMHSW's curriculum focuses on practical training and community engagement, developing care provider and communicator skills. Its association with teaching hospitals gives students' experiential learning, critical for decision-making and managerial capacity. By stimulating research and ongoing learning, PUMHSW instills the scholar role, enabling students to make contributions to medical advances. The university's focus on women's education also responds to Pakistan's under-provision of female healthcare workers, advocating for equity in a male-dominated environment³. However, there are still challenges. PUMHSW, like any institution, faces a resource-scarcity scenario. Shortages in infrastructure and faculty can negate the full potential of the Seven-Star Doctor model⁶. To address these, PUMHSW should collaborate with PMDC and WHO to access the former for financing, faculty development initiatives, and international best practices. International equivalence for pupils may furthermore be guaranteed by integrating WHO's centered on skills assessments into its educational contributions⁵.

SYNERGIZING PMDC, WHO, AND PUMHSW

The collaboration of PMDC, WHO, & PUMHSW opens the way toward advancement in Pakistani health education. As a way to harmonize the courses of study of Pakistan's 176 health colleges—72 of that are private and 45 of which are public—PMDC may use the WHO's Seven-Star Doctors structure, that is around the world accessible². By providing training in each of the seven roles, PMDC may guarantee that students are not only clinic activists but also advocates & leadership. PUMHSW could be implemented as an instance for specific to gender institutes to demonstrate how

specialized training may tackle regional healthcare inequalities when exceeding international criteria⁶. PMDC needs to modify its certification rules to reflect the WHO's competency system to ensure that healthcare facilities educate clinical abilities⁵) along with management, advocacy, & interpersonal skills. PUMHSW may take the lead in this by integrating these skills into its courses of study, particularly for women's and rural communities. WHO could help in this regard through providing funds & technical assistance, as seen by its global efforts to completely transform medical training⁷. This is additionally essential to tackle fundamental issues like dishonesty and shortages of resources. Even though the PMDC showed its dedication to change via its earlier separation & rebuilding, additional effort is required to attain transparency⁴. PUMHSW ought to push for additional funds & resources that will promote its objectives, while PMDC can help establish partnerships between the public and private sectors to boost opportunities for training, as in the case of Aga Khan University⁹.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Pakistan is experiencing difficulty bringing the Seven-Star Doctor system into practise. Insufficient resources, shortage of faculty, & inconsistent implementation of rules are the main difficulties³. Moreover, structural & culture drawbacks, such as those that prevent female graduates including Pakistan's first female orthopedic surgeon, emphasize the necessity of fair licensing systems¹⁰. In order to win public backing, PMDC requires to guarantee accountability & fairness. In hopes of making development, PMDC & PUMHSW have to collaborate with WHO to offer educational opportunities that satisfy local needs whilst maintaining global norms. Academic growth, learning through simulation investments, and

projects that involve the community may all contribute to cultivate each of the seven positions⁵. Efforts to raise public consciousness of the significance of multifaceted doctors could additionally promote community backing for such an idea.

CONCLUSION

A plan for transforming healthcare training in Pakistan might be seen in the Seven-Star Doctor concepts. By incorporating the PMDC rules and regulations, PUMHSW's female-focused vision, & WHO's international requirements, Pakistan may develop doctors who not only qualify as competent physicians but additionally empathetic leaders, proficient communicators, and learners for life. The collaboration has an opportunity for enhancing Pakistan's medical system to meet the challenges of the 21st century, promote women doctors, and find solutions to inequality in healthcare. PMDC & PUMHSW must work swiftly to put into practice this new approach & assure that every physician reflects the seven stars of competence.

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